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Inventory for Manuscript Collection MS-27

Captain Samuel R. Percy Papers, 1910-1935

by
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July 2005

Shelf feet: 1.5
Number of boxes: 3

This inventory is the product of funding from the Sewall Family Endowment Fund.

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Abstract

Percy, Samuel R. Jr., *Captain*, 1856 – 1940
Captain Samuel R. Percy papers, 1910 – 1935
3 boxes (1.5 shelf feet)
Ship captain, shipbuilder, and ship owner from Bath, ME
Papers of Captain Samuel R. Percy, Jr., primarily incoming correspondence relating to investments. Also includes letter books containing drawings and information for the **Ulak** (schooner-barge) and **Carroll A. Deering** (five-mast schooner), as well as blank account and insurance books and stationary from the Percy & Small shipyard and Allen M. Irish.
Items donated by estate of Eleanor Irish in 1973: G73.129.
Finding aid in repository; folder level control
Added entries: **Carroll A Deering** (five-mast schooner); Forms; Investments; Mines and mining; Oil fields; Percy & Small shipyard; Shipyards—Bath (ME); **Ulak** (schooner-barge)

Acquisition

Items in this collection were acquired through a donation from the estate of Eleanor Irish in 1973. The collection is identified by the accession number G73.129. Eleanor Irish was the daughter of Samuel R. Percy and the wife of Allen M. Irish, who worked in the Percy & Small shipyard.

Restrictions

There are no restrictions on the use of these papers.

Physical Condition

The majority of these papers are in good physical condition. Some of the loose documents have faded ink, discoloration, or damaged edges that may make them difficult to read. In addition, the majority of the loose documents have holes on the top edge remaining from an earlier binding.

The blank stationery, letter books, account books, and insurance books are in good condition with some discoloration of the paper.

The majority of the items in this collection are clean and legible.

Historical Note

Samuel R. Percy Jr. was born on December 13, 1856, in Phippsburg, Maine, the son of Captain Samuel R. Percy. He went to sea in 1875 after working in shipyards for several years. He was given his first command, of the **Normandy** (three-mast schooner) in 1882, and later commanded the **Henry P. Mason** (three-mast schooner). In 1892, Captain Percy was presented with a chest of sterling silver flatware by the citizens of Velasco, TX, in honor of the arrival of the **Mason**, which was the largest vessel to arrive in that port to that date.

Percy married Lucy E. Tobey, the daughter of James Tobey of Bath, in 1880. They had one daughter, Eleanor.

In 1894 Percy and Frank A. Small opened the Percy & Small shipyard in Bath. Percy served as the president and general manager. The shipyard built a total of forty-five vessels, including the **Wyoming** (schooner), which was the largest wooden sailing vessel built in the United States.

Percy served as the mayor of Bath in 1901, served on the board of the hospital and old folks home, and was a member of the Masons and the Shrine in the city.

The Percy & Small shipyard ceased operations in 1920, and the firm was dissolved in 1931. In 1938 the property was transferred to R.O Morse. Samuel Percy died on October 7, 1940.

In 1899, it was written that Percy was "born in Phippsburg and educated in the public schools. He began going to sea, winning steady promotion until he became master. After years of success on the sea he retired to manage shipping and in company with Frank A. Small has constructed several of the largest and finest schooners and is now at work upon another."

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists primarily of incoming correspondence relating to investments and other financial dealings including charitable donations. The majority relate to investments in mines and oil wells in the West. All of the letters were received by Percy, with the exception of a single document in box 3, folder 1, which is signed by him. Much of the correspondence not from corporations is received from John Brooks of Wyoming. The collection also includes a number of account and letter books, mostly blank, with the exception of those in box 1, folder 5, which contains drawings for the **Ulak** (schooner-barge) and box 2, folder 4, which contains drawings and information for the **Carroll A. Deering** (five-mast schooner). The **Deering** was built in 1919 at the adjoining yard operated by Gardiner G. Deering. Box 2, folder 5, contains a Bible inscribed " S R Percy, Presented to him by his Mother." In addition, there are several folders of blank stationery of the Percy & Small shipyard and of Allen M. Irish.

Investments discussed in this correspondence include the Valdez Creek Mines; Consolidated Royalty Oil Company; Granby Consolidated Mining, Smelting, and Power Co.; Worumbo Manufacturing Co.; and the Betty O'Neal mine. Other business subjects include JS Winslow schooners and the Porcupine Club.

Container List

Box 1, Folder	1	ledger, blank
	2	letter copying book, blank
	3	cash and ledger book, blank
	4	insurance book, blank
	5	letter copying book, Percy & Small letterhead, drawings for **Ulak** (schooner-barge), 1920
Box 2, Folder	1	Percy & Small letterhead, blank
	2	Allen M. Irish letterhead, blank
	3	Allen M. Irish letterhead and envelopes, blank
	4	Letter copying book, Percy & Small letterhead, drawings for **Carroll A. Deering** (five-mast schooner), 1919
	5	King James Bible, n.d.
Box 3, Folder	1	Incoming correspondence, 26 June 1910 – 15 April 1919
	2	Incoming correspondence, 25 March 1919 – 6 June 1919
	3	Incoming correspondence, 7 June 1919 – 1 November 1919
	4	Incoming correspondence, 12 November 1919 – 10 April 1920
	5	Incoming correspondence, 12 April 1920 – 21 June 1920
	6	Incoming correspondence, 24 June 1920 – 15 September 1920
	7	Incoming correspondence, 17 September 1920 – 10 December 1920
	8	Incoming correspondence, 14 December 1920 – 28 January 1921

9	Incoming correspondence, 31 January 1921 – 26 July 1921
10	Incoming correspondence, 29 July 1921 – 23 December 1921
11	Incoming correspondence, 24 December 1921- 20 March 1922
12	Incoming correspondence, 20 March 1922 – 24 April 1922
13	Incoming correspondence, 24 April 1922 – 25 November 1922
14	Incoming correspondence, 7 December 1922 – 3 July 1923
15	Incoming correspondence, 15 September 1923 – 15 April 1924
16	Incoming correspondence, 15 May 1924 – 4 December 1924
17	Incoming correspondence, 11 December 1924 – 5 September 1925
18	Incoming correspondence, 15 September 1925 – 1 June 1926
19	Incoming correspondence, 24 June 1926 – 28 August 1935
20	Incoming correspondence, date uncertain
21	Percy & Small letterhead, loose, and Percy & Small bill heads, blank
22	Percy & Small lined letterhead, loose, blank